



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE NABS TWO DANGEROUS GANG MEMBERS IN BOSTON *Two MS-13 Members With Violent Criminal Pasts Set for Deportation*

BOSTON -- Two members of the vicious street gang “Mara Salvatrucha” (MS-13) – both with violent criminal records of their own -- were arrested here today by agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

ICE agents arrested Dinora Chavarria, 20, and Oscar Aviles, 20, both of whom are affiliated with the Boston MS-13 cell. Both have past convictions for violent crimes, including assault and battery and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Chavarria was previously removed by ICE to her native Honduras, but she subsequently re-entered the United States illegally. She is now in ICE custody awaiting deportation to Honduras. Aviles is also in ICE custody facing deportation proceedings based upon his criminal conviction for assault with a dangerous weapon.

The two arrests are the latest under “Operation Community Shield,” an ICE anti-gang initiative launched in March to target members of the MS-13 gang in six cities nationwide. To date, ICE agents, working with their federal, state and local counterparts, have arrested more than 135 MS-13 gang members nationwide.

“Under Operation Community Shield, ICE is keeping the pressure on the MS-13 in order to dismantle their organizations and disrupt their operations,” said Robin M. Avers, Special Agent-in-Charge of ICE in New England. “We’re sending a clear message that we will not tolerate gang violence and crime in our communities, and we’ll continue working with our local law enforcement partners to get these dangerous criminals off our streets.”

Operation Community Shield is a nationwide ICE initiative designed to disrupt and dismantle violent gang organizations and prosecute their members by employing the full range of authorities and investigative tools available to ICE. Under this initiative, ICE is employing its broad immigration authorities, both criminal and administrative, against gang members. At the same time, ICE uses its customs authorities to target narcotics smuggling and money laundering and to seek the forfeiture of assets.

Operation Community Shield draws on strong partnerships and cooperation with existing federal, state and local anti-gang efforts. Such partnerships are essential to the success of the initiative and to ensure officer

safety during operations. Locally, ICE has partnered with the North Shore Gang Intelligence Unit, run by the Boston Police, the Boston Police Gang Unit, the Lynn Gang Unit and the Somerville Gang Unit.

The law enforcement actions to date have been conducted in coordination with law enforcement at the federal, state and local levels. ICE will also be working through its 54 Attaché offices overseas to cooperate with foreign governments that are also experiencing gang problems, particularly those in Central America.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.